

6 February 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

2636 '02 FEB 13 AM 1:33

Re: docket number 98P-0151/CP1

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding docket number 98P-0151/CP1. I urge you to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals for food.

Downers pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination. There is also evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease"), a disease that has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD, or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease).

It is impossible to move downed animals humanely.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

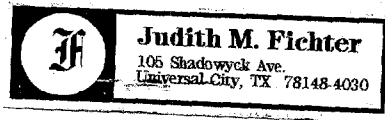
Thank you,

Judy Fichter

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